

WI-291  
Jester Homeplace  
Jesterville  
Private

c. 1880-1890

Commonly known as the Jester Homeplace in the land records, this two-and-a-half story, center hall frame house was erected during the late years of the nineteenth century in the rural village that bears the family name. Jesterville developed along the main road between Nanticoke and Tyaskin during the mid to late nineteenth century incorporating a community formerly known as Oak Grove. Built as a mirror image of the Jester house across the road, this two-and-a-half story house retains a significant amount of its original period detailing including a decorated hip roof porch and sawn fascia boards that trim the cross-gabled roof. Louvered shutters flank each of the two-over-two sash windows, and a twisted iron lightning rod apparatus survives on the ridge of the roof. Attached to the back of the house is two-story dining room and kitchen wing that features many of the same details.

While John F. Jester is reported to have resided on the east side of Jesterville Road, the property on which this house stands was also purchased by him during the late 1880s. The house and land remained in Jester and related Hillyer families until the late 1950s.

## MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Jester Homeplace

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-291

## MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s):    Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation:       Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s):    Industrial/Urban Dominance  
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s):               Single-family dwelling

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI=291

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Jester Homeplace

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number West side of Jesterville Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Nanticoke ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Janet Thelma Roberts

street & number 5661 Gates Street Bellevue telephone no.:

city, town Royal Oak state and zip code Maryland 21662

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 63, P. 531  
liber 1295

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 131

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-291

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Jester Homeplace is a two-and-a-half story, five-bay, center hall frame house that stands on the west side of Jesterville Road in the vicinity of Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland. The house faces east with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1880-90, the two-and-a-half story single-pile frame house is supported on an infilled brick pier foundation and the exterior is clad with plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with a deteriorated asphalt shingle roof with exposed wood shingles underneath. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing that gives the entire structure a tee-shape.

The east (main) elevation is a symmetrical five-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows fitted with louvered shutters. The front door is a modern replacement. The entire first floor is sheltered by a hip roof porch decorated with sawn corner brackets and a sawtooth eave. The second floor is pierced by an even series of two-over-two sash windows fitted with louvered shutters as well. Centered on the roof is a cross gable pierced by a round arched window. The eave of the roof is extended and trimmed with a decorative sawn fascia.

The south gable end is defined by pairs of two-over-two sash windows on the first and second floors, and each window retains its louvered shutters. The edge of the roof is extended and trimmed with the same decorative fascia as the front of the house. Rising through the gable end is a tall brick chimney finished with a corbeled cap that incorporates a dentil row. Fixed atop the ridge of the roof is the original lightning rod apparatus. The north gable end is detailed in the same fashion.

Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story dining room and kitchen wing that has a two-story, one-bay by one-bay gable roofed addition on its southwest corner. Fixed between the two-story appendage and the main block is an enclosed shed porch. Attached to the back of the house is a shed porch supported by chamfered posts. The first and second floors are lighted by two-over-two sash windows, and the eave to the roof has a decorated fascia.

The interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-291

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Commonly known as the Jester Homeplace in the land records, this two-and-a-half story, center hall frame house was erected during the late years of the nineteenth century in the rural village that bears the family name. Jesterville developed along the main road between Nanticoke and Tyaskin during the mid to late nineteenth century incorporating a community formerly known as Oak Grove. Built as a mirror image of the Jester house across the road, this two-and-a-half story house retains a significant amount of its original period detailing including a decorated hip roof porch and sawn fascia boards that trim the cross-gabled roof. Louvered shutters flank each of the two-over-two sash windows, and a twisted iron lightning rod apparatus survives on the ridge of the roof. Attached to the back of the house is two-story dining room and kitchen wing that features many of the same details.

While John F. Jester is reported to have resided on the east side of Jesterville Road, the property on which this house stands was also purchased by him during the late 1880s. (1) The house and land remained in Jester and related Hillyer families until the late 1950s.(2)

Although this house has fallen into a deteriorated state of repair, the intact nature of the structure qualifies it for listing in *Category A*, which identifies properties of high architectural and/or historical merit.

1 Wicomico County Land Records, FMS 2/18, 8/8/1887; JTT 12/219, 12/4/1893; JTT 14/189, 5/8/1895; JTT 14/223, 5/11/1895; JTT 17/216, 12/30/1895; JTT 24/256, 3/18/1899; JTT 33/32, 4/1/1902; EAT 57/132, 6/28/1908, Wicomico County Courthouse.

2 Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 480/242, 7/9/1959, Wicomico County Courthouse.



WI-291  
Jester Homeplace  
Nanticoke vicinity  
Chain of title

Map 63, Parcel 531

1295/131

Fred Alexander Roberts, Jr.

to

6/2/1992

Janet Thelma Roberts

“Jester Homeplace”

JWTS 799/581

Ruth I. Roberts

to

9/11/1973

Fred Alexander Roberts, Jr., Brookhaven, Mississippi

JWTS 790/507

George E. Kuntz  
Anna S. Kuntz, Middlesex County, New Jersey

to

4/30/1973

Ruth I. Roberts  
Janet T. Roberts

\$1,500.00

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Nanticoke vicinity  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JWTS 680/361

Stanley G. Robins  
John B. Robins, assignee

to

11/11/1968

George E. Kuntz  
Anna S. Kuntz

Foreclosing and collection under power contained in a  
mortgage from Donald Holt Vollmer and Jennie Mae  
Vollmer, JWTS 477/409, 7/24/1959

JWTS 481/69

Lonnie W. Jones  
Elizabeth W. Jones

to

7/24/1959

Donald Holt Vollmer  
Jennie Mae Vollmer

JWTS 480/242

Rachel J. Hillyer  
Robert C. Hillyer

to

7/9/1959

Lonnie W. Jones  
Elizabeth W. Jones

Being the same land conveyed to:

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Jester Homeplace  
Nanticoke vicinity  
Chain of title continued

Page 3

1. Rachel Jester Hillyer from L. Claude Bailey and William W. Travers, trustees, 5/20/1940, JWS 223/398.

2. Mary W. Jester from Hooper S. Miles, trustee, 8/16/1950, JWTS 322/252

3. Henry F. Jester and J. Fred Jester from the John F. Jester Company, 11/28/1922, JCK 128/400

The interest of the said J. Fred Jester having been conveyed unto Henry F. Jester, 1/16/1925, JCK 136/544, The title to the said property owned by the said Henry F. Jester, upon his death intestate, having been passed unto Mary W. Jester as the sole heir in the property hereby conveyed having been devised unto the said Rachel J. Hillyer by the Last Will and Testament of the said Mary W. Jester, deceased, 6/9/1955, JAH 6/258

JWS 223/398

L. Claude Bailey  
William W. Travers, Trustees

to

5/20/1940

Rachel Jester Hillyer

Decree of Circuit Court, 11/18/1939, Rachel Jester Hillyer, complainant and Robert Carlton Hillyer, et al. were defendants, No. 5552 Chancery Record

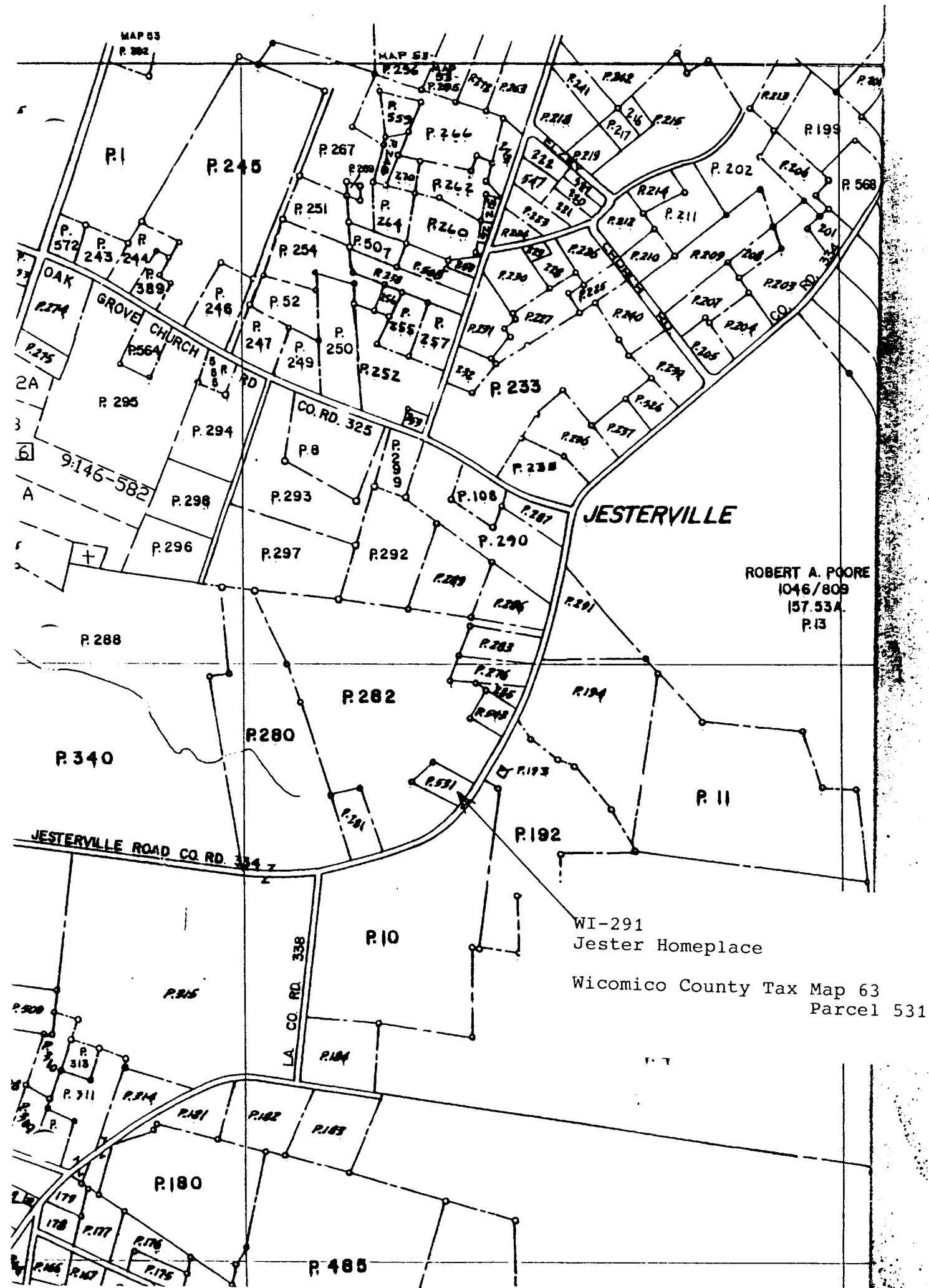
Items 1, 2, and 3, the said properties above described were in all respects the same land conveyed

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Nanticoke vicinity  
Chain of title continued

Page 4

unto John F. Jester from:

1. William D. Heath, 8/8/1887, FMS 2/18
2. Anna M. Griffin, 12/4/1893, JTT 12/219
3. E. Stanley Toadvin, trustee, 5/8/1895, JTT 14/189
4. E. Stanley Toadvin, trustee, 5/11/1895, JTT 14/223
5. E. S. S. Turner, 12/30/1895, JTT 17/216
6. Thomas J. Walter, 3/18/1899, JTT 24/256
7. Edward J. Stewart, 4/1/1902, JTT 33/32
8. William S. Travers, 6/28/1908, EAT 57/132



Dist. No. 3  
WICOMICO CO.



**WARE WINRIGHT**, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Notions, &c., and all goods usually kept in a country store. Whitesboro P. O.

**W. G. & J. Q. TILGHMAN**, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Cutlery, Tobacco, Cigars, Notions, &c. Tyaskin, Md.

**JOHN WILLING AND CO.,** Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Notions and all articles usually kept in a country store. Nanticoke P. O.

**S. A. LANGRALL**, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, and all articles usually kept in a first class country store. Store near M. E. Church, Nanticoke Point.

**JNO. TURNER AND SON**, Dealers in Dry Goods,  
Groceries, Hardware, Queensware, Boots, Shoes,  
&c. Nanticoke, Md.

**J. A. CONNAWAY**, Physician and Surgeon. Office and Res. near M. E. Church, Nanticoke Point.

**J. H. ELLIOTT**, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Ready-made clothing, Extracts, Patent Medicines, Notions, and all goods usually kept in a first class country store. Store at Green Hill.

**W. J. CATLIN, M. D.**, Physician and Surgeon. All calls promptly attended to. Res. and Office at Belgrade Farm. P. O., Tyaskin, Md.

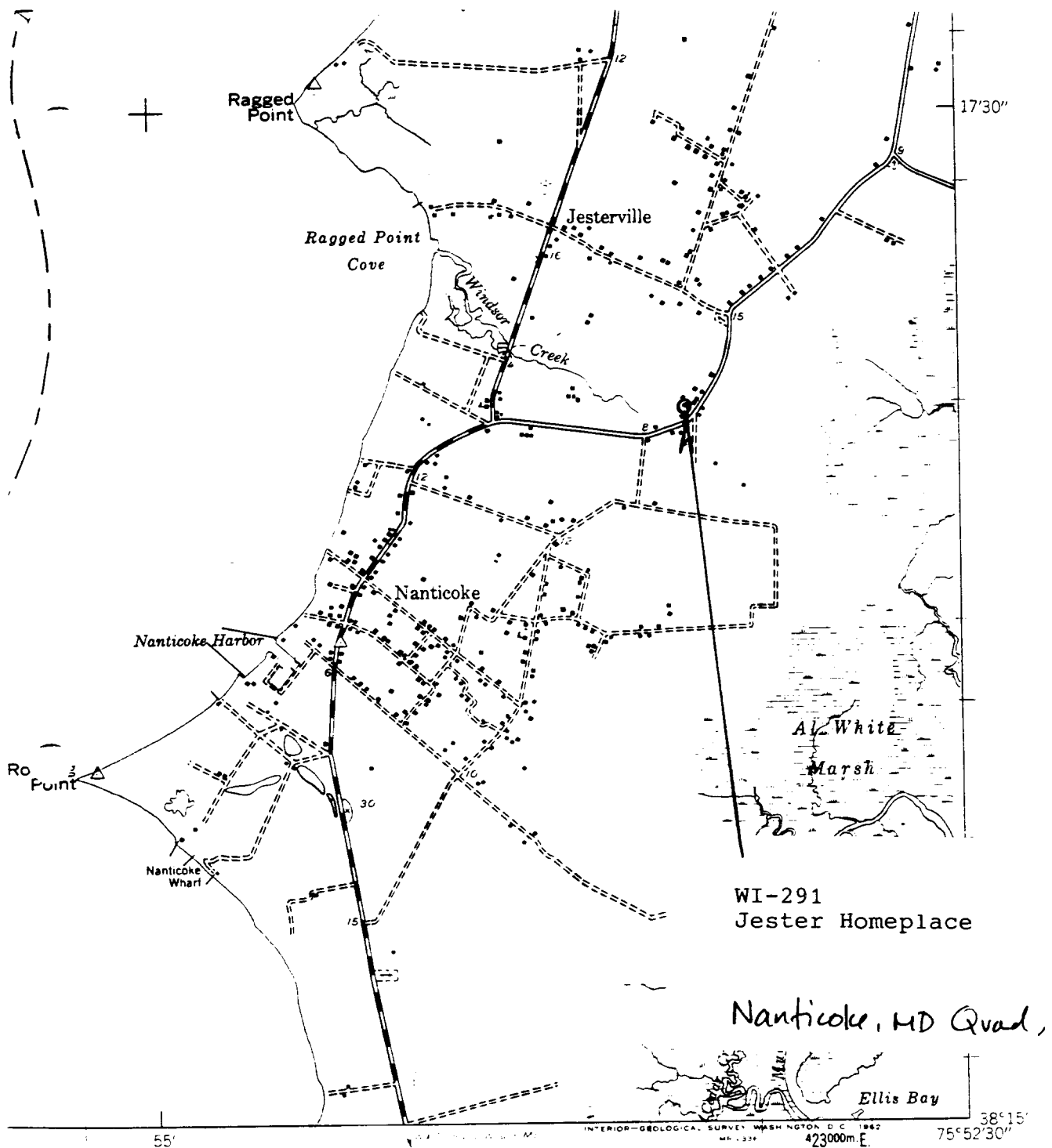
**W. D. HEATH**, Dealer in Groceries, Hardware, Tobacco, Liquors, &c. Tyaskin, Md.  
**NOAH J. TILGHMAN**, Proprietor of "Tyaskin Mills," Manufacturer of Corn-meal, Hominy, and

**J. E. B. HORNER.** Owner of the fine Sloop "James Wesley." All kinds of freighting done to and from

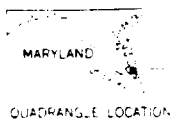
Wesley. All kinds of freighting done to and from any point on the "Chesapeake Bay," or its tributaries. Special Attention to the purchase and freighting of Oysters. Res. and P. O., Tyaskin, Md.

**J. W. WINGATE** Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries

**J. W. WILGATE.** Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Ready-made clothing. Confectionery, Wines, Whiskies, Brandy and Rum, and all articles usually kept in a first class country store. at Whitehaven.



1 MILE  
7000 FEET  
METER



#### ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Medium-duty

Light-duty

Unimproved dirt

State Route

#### NANTICOKE, MD.

SW/4 NANTICOKE 15' QUADRANGLE

N3815-W7552.5/7.5

1942

QUES.



12-17

12-18 12-19 12-20 12-21

12-22 12-23 12-24 12-25 12-26 12-27

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